Application No. Unassigned:

Attorney Docket No. BASF.10017

Preliminary Amendment Dated: December 30, 2004

Attorney Docket No. BASF.10017

Page 5 of 5

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to place the application in better form for examination. New claims 19 and 20 have been added. Entry of the amendments and favorable consideration are requested. Claims 1-20 are now pending.

If any questions arise, the Examiner is invited to phone the undersigned at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

HUTCHISON & MASON PLLC

Date: December 30, 2004

Mary B. Grant

Registration No. 32,176

P.O. Box 31686 Raleigh, NC 27612 +1.919.829.9600

I hereby certify that the application/correspondence attached hereto is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Express Mail Label No. EV 613 032 811 US

Date of Deposit: December 30, 2004

Cynthia Wilder

Cathe WITHIN

(Signature of Person Signing Certificate)

Date of Signing: December 30, 2004